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of the state. The contents cover such matters as the social background, development of political government, taxation, police power, functions of government, classification of law, the electorate, citizenship, political parties, and the growth of democracy. It is not in any sense a contribution. It is solely what it purports to be—an elementary introduction to political science.

MERRIAM, CHARLES EDWARD, PH.D.
American Political Ideas, 1865-1917.
 Pp. 480. Price, \$2.75. New York: The MacMillan Co. 1920.

The author well calls this *American Political Ideas* with the subtitle *Studies in the Development of American Political Thought, 1865-1917*. This is not a book on political theory. It is an inclusive study of the various ideas that have been present in American life from 1865-1917. The most masterly chapter of the book is that on "The Background of American Political Thought." This chapter will prove particularly helpful to anyone who cares to get the background for present-day political phenomena. The book should be in every well-stocked library.

Those who are looking for a critical analysis will be disappointed in the book. Those who are desirous of getting a clear-cut and well-balanced statement on such topics as the consent of the governed, the courts, the legislative and the executive, internationalism, militarism, the political party and civil liberties will find the book informing and useful.

KIERNAN, T. J., M.A. *British War Finance and the Consequences.* Pp. vi, 132. London: P. S. King and Son Limited.

This book discusses briefly and concisely the principles underlying public finance in Great Britain before, during, and since the World War. It does not contain detailed information as to the administration of taxes now in force in the United Kingdom. It does discuss concisely, however, the principles underlying these taxes and applies the general canons of economics thereto. This is a handy reference book as it contains the salient principles of the British fiscal system.

DOWD, JEROME, M.A. *Democracy in America.* Pp. XIII, 506. Price, \$3.50. Oklahoma City: The Harlow Publishing Company. 1921.

"One of the characteristics of the Americans, conspicuous in all Teutonic races, and especially accentuated in the English, is a very strong degree of pugnacity." This is the type of statement that pervades the book. Are the Teutonic races conspicuous for pugnacity and is this trait especially accentuated in the English? What sort of evidence would one have to have before such a statement could be made? Are we to rely merely on statements of travellers?

Those who desire such statements as the above quotation in great abundance will find numerous examples throughout this book. There are chapters devoted to domestic life, industrial life, political life, religious life, the press, the drama, manners, science, education, philosophy, music, painting, sculpture and architecture.

LASKI, HAROLD J. *Political Thought from Locke to Bentham.* Pp. 326. Price, \$1.90. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1921.

This book is more than the usual collection of excerpts from political thinkers. It is an interpretation of the classical contributions of political thinkers from Locke to Bentham in the light of present day developments. It is not a bromodic collection of excerpts from those authors, nor is it an exercise in putting up the authors of the past and knocking them down with present-day knowledge. It is an illuminating analysis of the works of those theorists, by one who has an inclusive grasp of economic and social forces that create political theories, written in an enticing style.

BRUCK, W. F. *Geschichte des Kriegsausschusses der Deutschen Baumwoll-Industrie.* Pp. 328. Berlin: War Committee for the German Cotton Industries, 1920.

The work under consideration presents a discussion of the organization and activity of the German Committee which dealt with the cotton industry in the German Empire during the war. The author, a

professor of Economics at the University of Giessen, was director of the cotton section in the Raw Materials Division of the War Ministry up to December 1915, before which time the important regulations pertaining to government control of the cotton industry had been formulated. He has also had access to the complete records of this committee during the latter part of the war.

The volume is divided into three parts. The first, occupying two-thirds of the book, gives a brief history of the cotton industries in Germany before the war, and more particularly an account of the early effects of the war on these industries—the changes due to lack of raw material, the effects of substitution, price regulation, and the technical changes within the industry. The last one hundred pages of part one contain a detailed account of the plans and procedure by which owners of spinning and weaving mills were indemnified. Of approximately twelve million spindles in the cotton industry of Germany, the war committee designated only two million for army purposes. The owners of these two million spindles were not allowed to pocket large gains; in fact, the entire profits on the war orders were distributed among the owners of the idle spindles as indemnification for their enforced idleness. Part two presents in considerable detail the various regulations adopted for control of the cotton industries during the first two years of the war, and extensive tables of statistics and graphs showing stocks, prices, number of workmen employed, etc. from 1915 to 1918. Part three deals with the business organization of the committee and the various problems before it for solution.

Before the war, the cotton industries of Germany were among the most important of the country, engaging about one-eighth of the total German labor and utilizing nearly two million bales of cotton per year. In 1913 Germany exported about 125 million dollars worth of yarn, thread and cotton goods, being surpassed in this field only by Great Britain and the United States.

While entirely dependent on imports for supplies of cotton, Germany gave little attention to this raw material during the summer of 1914. As a matter of fact the importation of raw cotton into the country was not seriously affected during the early months of the war. Large shipments were received up to February 1915, at which time cotton began to be restricted to army uses only. These shipments came largely as reexports of American cotton from Scandinavia, Holland, Switzerland and Italy. On August 22, 1915, England declared all cotton shipments contraband, and from this time on German industries were more or less seriously handicapped for raw cotton.

At the outbreak of the war the cotton market at Bremen had about 325,000 bales on hand, and some 400,000 additional bales were in the possession of the plants using this material. The stock on hand in industrial plants was inventoried in May 1915, and found to be about the same as in July 1914. When Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary there were approximately 500,000 bales of cotton at Genoa, destined for Germany.

The chief task of the committee, whose activities Dr. Bruck describes, was, of course, to provide for the needs of the army. This was accomplished chiefly by restricting the supplies of raw cotton to those plants designated by the committee to supply army material. This committee also apportioned the work among the various establishments, distributed the subsidy payments to idle mills, and had general supervision and disposition of the large stocks of cotton confiscated in northern France, Belgium and Poland.

The book is a mine of detailed information regarding official decrees for the control of the cotton industries in Germany from 1914 to 1918, and is chiefly valuable as a source book.

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